



**Governor  
James E. McGreevey**

**May 2004**

**Commissioner  
Jack Lettiere**



**Work on the Route 35 Victory Bridge is under way in Middlesex County.**

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## **Proposed FY '05 Capital Program totals \$2.58 billion**

I unveiled a \$2.58 billion capital program for NJDOT and NJ TRANSIT for FY 2005 before the Assembly Budget Committee in early April. It is a fiscally responsible and robust investment in New Jersey's transportation network.

The FY 2005 Capital Program fulfills Governor McGreevey's commitment to improving safety, easing congestion by using Smart Growth and Fix-It-First strategies and providing needed property tax relief to New Jersey's counties and municipalities and a significant stimulus to the state's economy. Roughly \$1.4 billion of the capital program is for use by the NJDOT and \$1.2 billion by NJ TRANSIT.

"This program will support jobs and encourage Smart Growth development through targeted capital investments," said Governor James E. McGreevey. Virtually half the funding will be provided for public transportation while new highway expansion is limited to just four percent of spending.

This substantial investment in our transportation network will facilitate the movement of over \$7 billion

worth of goods and services and directly support over 100,000 jobs.

The FY 2005 Capital Program allows NJDOT to repair and rehabilitate over 15,000 lane miles of state highways, 32,000 miles of county and municipal roadways and 5,000 state and local bridges. This program will also put record amounts of work on the street. In FY 2005 alone NJDOT will award more than \$740 million worth of engineering and construction contracts.

Improving safety is the NJDOT's top priority and roughly \$100 million will be spent on engineering, education and enforcement initiatives designed to increase safety on our highways and bridges. The FY 2005 Capital Program invests \$8.3 million for the Emergency Service Patrol Program; \$4 million for the Safe Corridors Program; \$1 million for improvements at intersections with especially high accident rates and \$4 million for the Safe Streets to School Program.

**Continued on back page**



# NJDOT CELEBRATES EARTH DAY

## Delaware Bayshore Trail

The New Jersey Audubon Society is one of NJDOT's newest partners.

In celebration of Earth Day, we presented \$409,000 to the Society to fund the Delaware Bayshore Birding and

Wildlife Trail that will extend along the Delaware Bay in Cape May, Cumberland and Salem Counties.

The grant is a cooperative effort between state agencies, officials and residents of these three counties to fund the first such trail in the Northeast using existing roads, bike paths and public transit routes to connect wildlife viewing areas. The money will be used to construct the trails and to publish maps and informational booklets about the trail and nearby accommodations.

Known as a mecca for birdwatching, the area has annual impressive gatherings of snow geese and wintering raptors, migrating shore birds, songbirds and purple martins. Thanks to this grant, they will be enjoyed and appreciated in their natural habitat by many more people.

Last year more than 1.6 million residents and nearly 700,000 out of state visitors actively watched wildlife in New Jersey. The money that wildlife watchers spent in our state increased from about \$864 million in 1996 to over \$1.24 billion in 2001. NJDOT's modest grant to the New Jersey Audubon Society will enhance this major ecotourism effort and spur important economic activity in southern New Jersey.

Transportation is the physical link that connects these trails; it is the figurative link that provides for increased economic growth opportunities.

Nationally, 46 million Americans are engaged in birdwatching and generate \$85 billion in overall economic output. This is directly responsible for 863,000 jobs nationwide.

The NJDOT is committed to partnering with agencies and organizations to foster this type of ecotourism activity in New Jersey.



NJDOT gave \$409,000 to the New Jersey Audubon Society on April 19 for the Delaware Bayshore Birding and Wildlife Trail. With me are Tom Gilmore, president of the Audubon Society; Eric Stiles of the Audubon Society; John Watson of the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection and Dale Rosselet of the Audubon Society.

## Hybrid buses and ozone partnership

NJ TRANSIT Executive Director George Warrington and I rolled out two new hybrid buses that will serve customers in Bergen, Essex and Mercer counties.

The Newark event also launched the OzonePass Program that offers many New Jersey employees a discounted commute on days when high levels of ozone pollution are predicted.

Offering discounted tickets to use during high-ozone days, coupled with NJ TRANSIT's plan to reduce particulate emissions on buses, are two key initiatives being undertaken to meet Governor James E. McGreevey's new clean air initiative.

Between new bus purchases and modifications to NJ TRANSIT's existing fleet, particulate emissions have dropped by 77 percent over the last 10 years.

NJ TRANSIT was the first commuter system to

introduce the OzonePass concept in 1999. Last year, 21 organizations bought 5,960 OzonePass tickets. OzonePass is sold in bulk quantities to New Jersey employers who will either sell or give the passes to the employees.

The day before unhealthy ozone pollution levels are predicted, employers will be alerted by fax or e-mail. The employers will then notify their employees who can use the OzonePass to commute on NJ TRANSIT instead of driving to work and contributing to the anticipated unhealthy pollution levels.

OzonePass is available to members of the New Jersey Ozone Action Partnership, an organization of more than 500 businesses and organizations. As a partner, employers can purchase a limited number of passes at the start of the ozone season. To register, employers should call (973) 491-7600 or send an email to [zonepass@njtransit.com](mailto:zonepass@njtransit.com).



# NJDOT JOINS WORLDWIDE SAFETY PROMOTIONS

## World Health Day focuses on road safety

"Road safety is no accident" is this year's United Nations World Health Day theme.

NJDOT joined with the New Jersey Automobile Club at its Florham Park Headquarters to mark the April event.

There is an absolute nexus between health and the need for greater safety on our highways. Every year, around the world, an estimated 1.2 million people die in motor vehicle crashes and 10-15 million people are injured in these crashes.

Under Governor McGreevey's Safety First initiative, we are making a dent in the short and long term safety needs of our highways. New Jersey is one of only seven states in the nation that had a reduction in motor vehicle fatalities, but we will not rest until all motor vehicle fatalities are down to zero.

Pedestrian fatalities fell 18 percent and motor vehicle fatalities fell 3 percent in the past year.

Municipalities conducted special World Health Day child seat checks throughout the state, free of charge, to ensure users have installed them properly. I advocate standardization of the seats to make the system as simple as plugging in a toaster.

NJDOT has undertaken several measures over the last year under Governor McGreevey's "Safe Corridors" bill including engineering and technological improvements, adding 500 miles of raised pavement reflectors, recording driver safety and public safety announcements and expanding driver education programs.

Other enhanced safety programs are our Safe Streets to Schools program, bike and pedestrian friendly trails for municipalities, increasing the number of the Emergency Service Patrols on state highways and promoting the #77 aggressive driver hotline phone number.

## Work zone safety requires constant awareness

**Fatalities in motor vehicle work zone crashes increased more than 50 percent in the last five years nationally; non-motorist fatalities (workers, pedestrians, bicyclists) in work zone crashes average around 140 persons every year nationally.**

— U.S. Department of Transportation, Federal Highway Administration, "Creating Safer Work Zones"

Each day when I look outside my window at the NJDOT Employee Memorial, I am reminded that it honors 32 of our employees killed in the line of duty — many of them in work zone accidents.

NJDOT joined fellow members of the New Jersey Work Zone Safety Partnership at our Fifth Annual Work

Zone Safety Awareness Conference and New Technology Showcase in April. National Work Zone Awareness Week is a time for the transportation family to recommit itself to increasing safety.

In May we will engrave one more name, Kyle Kristensen, a Drawbridge Operator who was killed on the Victory Bridge in Perth Amboy, on the plaque on the NJDOT Employee Memorial.

All 33 names will be submitted for placement on the National Work Zone Memorial. This memorial honors not only work zone employees, but also motorists, pedestrians, children, law enforcement officers and public safety officials such as fire fighters and paramedics. It travels nationwide to raise public awareness of the need to respect and stay safe in America's roadway work zones.

## Helpful Numbers

Title	Name	Number
Commissioner	Jack Lettiere	(609) 530-2000
Deputy Commissioner	James Snyder	(609) 530-4314
Chief of Staff	Kris Kolluri	(609) 530-2002
Assistant Commissioner of Government and Community Relations	Tina Lado	(609) 530-5821
Legislative Liaison	Sharon Shinkle Gardner	(609) 530-4821



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## Proposed FY'05 Capital Program totals \$2.58 billion Continued from page 1

As part of its Fix-It-First initiative, NJDOT will spend \$370 million to repair and replace 71 bridges, including \$12 million for construction of a new fixed-span Manasquan Bridge in Monmouth County and \$34 million for a new Routes 1&9 Elizabeth River Bridge in Union County.

- \$150 million will be invested in roadway preservation, targeting the worst roads first, including \$7 million to rehabilitate I-295 from I-195 to Route 1 in Mercer County.

- \$235 million is allocated for FY 2005 to ease congestion throughout the state. These measures will make travel on New Jersey's highways more efficient and will help reduce emissions, protecting the air we breathe. Included is \$5.9 million for intersection safety improvements at Route 1&9 North Avenue in Elizabeth and \$24.2 million to eliminate the Route 30 Berlin Circle.

At NJ TRANSIT, investments will be targeted to preserving and upgrading a public transportation system that covers more than 5,000 square miles and facilitates

more than 222 million annual passenger trips. It provides for a \$257 million investment in rail state-of-good repair needs such as basic track, signal, bridge and yard

improvements; \$16 million in bus and light rail facility needs and the replacement of more than 270 outdated buses.

In addition, \$59 million will provide systemwide investments, including \$9 million for technology upgrades to improve efficiency and reduce annual operating costs and \$15 million to improve the on board announcement system, a frequent customer complaint.

Newark's Broad Street, Ridgewood, Madison, Morristown and Trenton are among those stations that will

receive \$76 million in improvements.

Finally, \$7.5 million will be applied towards fulfilling Governor McGreevey's commitment to creating 20,000 new Park & Ride spaces statewide.

The entire Proposed Fiscal Year 2005 Capital Program is available on NJDOT's Web site and is broken down by projects, counties and routes.

**NJDOT's Local Aid program will provide significant property tax relief to New Jersey counties and municipalities by making direct investments in local communities. NJDOT's \$260 million investment in Local Aid will help rebuild and revitalize communities, improve safety, and enhance the quality of life in New Jersey's downtowns.**

A graphic featuring a background of US dollar bills. Overlaid on the bills is a circular seal with the text "NJDOT'S LOCAL AID PROGRAM" around the perimeter. In the center of the seal, the text from the blockquote is written in a bold, sans-serif font.